

## SPEECH ACTS USED BY MIA DOLAN IN “LA LA LAND” MOVIE

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### Abstract

The research belongs to discourse analysis because the data are in the forms of words and sentences. The procedures of the research were: (1) identifying the utterances expressed by Mia Dolan by watching the movie and comparing the dialog of the movie with the movie script taken from internet, (2) classifying and analyzing data based on types and functions of speech act, presenting data in the table, and (3) describing and discussing the finding in the form of description based on the table of an analysis of speech act. The findings of this research show there are 209 utterances of speech act. From the five categories of speech acts, there are only four categories used by Mia Dolan; they are representative (99 data or 45.45%). The functions are: stating, affirming, predicting, retelling, calling, answering, concluding, reporting, complaining and informing. There are 68 data of directives (32.53%) and the functions are: questioning, commanding, warning, suggesting and requesting. Expressive speech act reaches 34 data (16.26%) and the functions are: apologizing, thanking, expressing feeling, expressing pleasure, expressing pain, complimenting and greeting. Commisive reaches 12 data (5.74%), the functions are: promising, refusing, offering and threatening. Declarative is not used by Mia Dolan.

**Key words:** *speech act, function, Discourse Analysis*

### Introduction

Language is used to express people's feeling in their life. It functions to transfer information of what they want and to establish their social relationship through conversations or dialogues. In doing communication, every utterance spoken by a person actually has meaning. Yule (1996:47) an action that is performed by utterances is called speech acts.

Speech act is found in various types of communication. It can be daily conversation, formal meetings, speeches, and others. The writers were interested in analyzing speech act found in literary work: movie. The phenomena of speech act are widely found in the dialogues of the movie. Since the characters are involved in different situation of dialogue, they use different ways to communicate and choice of words. This is interesting to analyze since people can get deeper meaning of what the movie is about, specifically what the characters mean during the dialogues.

“La La Land” is chosen as the movie to be analyzed, since it has the reflection of daily dialogue when the main character can make some representative, directive, expressive, declarative and commissive. Many utterances used by the main character are interesting to perform an action via those utterances or speech act in various levels. The utterances by the main character also have are various functions, for example questioning, thanking, commanding, inviting and refusing.

## Literature Review

### *Language*

According to Brown (2000 : 5) concludes that the language with following definitions :

1. Language is systematic.
2. Language is a set of arbitrary symbols.
3. Those symbols are primarily vocal, but may be visual.
4. The symbols have conventionalized meaning to which they refer.
5. Language is used for communication.
6. Language is essentially human, although possibly not limited to human.
7. Language is acquired by all people in much the same way; language and language learning both have universal characteristics.

While the above idea of language is on the definition, Richards (1985:217) mentions some functions of it:

1. As descriptive function it organizes a speaker's or writer's experience of the world and conveys information which can be stated or denied and in some cases tested.
2. As social function it is used to establish, maintain and signal relationships between people.
3. As expressive function through which speakers signal information about their opinion, prejudices, past experiences.
4. As textual function it creates written and spoken texts.

The next focus is on the style of language that is possible in human communication, as stated by Joos (1961) in Ghazali (2012 : 15). At least there are five styles of formality in spoken English which are described as follows:

1. *Frozen Style*: printed unchanging language such as Biblical quotations: often contains archaism.
2. *Formal Style*: one way participant, no interruption. Technical vocabulary; "Fussy Semantics" or exact definitions are important.
3. *Consultative Style*: two way participants. Background information is provided, prior knowledge is not assumed.
4. *Casual Style*: in group friends and acquaintances. No background information provided. Ellipsis and slang common.
5. *Intimate Style*: non-public. Intonation is more important than wording or grammar.

### *Speech Act*

According to Yule (1996:47), speech acts in an action performed by utterance. It means that the words have the some functions when people perform something using physical action. It is consists of several aspects such as locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary. There are five kinds of illocutionary act (Searle, Wardhaugh 2006 : 287-288). They are:

1. *representative* which requires the listeners to take care about the speakers believes,
2. *commissive* that deals with the speakers' action in the future,
3. *declarative* deals with the change in formal status or some object,
4. *directive* which requires the listeners to determine some courses of action and carry them out, and
5. *expressive* which states what the speaker feels.

While Ghazali (2012 : 4) states that there are three kinds of meaning which are carried by utterances. Those meanings are:

1. Locutionary act as the basic literal meaning of the utterance which is conveyed by the particular words and structures that the utterance contains.
2. Illocutionary act as the real meaning of the speaker that he or she conveys to express.
3. Perlocutionary act is an actual result or an effect of the utterance.

## Method

This research is categorized as a discourse analysis. According to McCarthy (1999:5) discourse analysis is concerned with the study of the relationship between language and the contexts in which they are used. Discourse analysis studies language in written texts of all kinds, spoken data. The data in this study were taken from the movie script of “La La Land” movie, in the form of words and utterances. The procedures of the research were: identifying the utterances expressed by Mia Dolan, comparing the dialog of the movie with the movie script taken from internet, classifying and analyzing data based on types and functions of speech act, presenting data in the table, describing and discussing the finding in the form of description based on the table of an analysis of speech act.

## Findings and Discussion

There are 41 scenes in the “La La Land” movie, but the writers only focused on the scenes where Mia Dolan spoke her utterances. Based on this, there were 24 scenes containing 209 utterances to be analyzed.

### 1. Types of Speech acts

This sub-section presents the analysis of kinds of speech acts used by Mia Dolan in “La La Land” movie based on ( Searle, in Wardhaugh, 2006). Table 1 shows the result of the kinds of speech act, the functions of speech acts and the social context in the speech acts used by Mia Dolan in “La La Land” movie analysis.

Table 1. Analysis of Kinds of Speech Acts

Scene	Types of Speech Act					Number of Acts
	Dec	Rep	Exp	Dir	Com	
I	-	3	2	0	0	5
II	-	3	0	1	4	8
III	-	2	1	1	0	4
IV	-	4	0	4	0	8
V	-	5	2	3	0	10
VI	-	2	2	7	1	12
VII	-	1	2	3	2	8
VIII	-	20	2	5	0	27
IX	-	13	1	4	0	18
X	-	-	3	1	-	4
XI	-	4	1	2	-	7
XII	-	-	1	-	-	1
XIII	-	3	0	0	1	4
XIV	-	-	2	-	-	2
XV	-	6	1	6	1	14
XVI	-	6	4	14	1	25
XVII	-	5	1	1	1	8
XVIII	-	6	2	6	1	15
XIX	-	4	1	1	-	6
XX	-	4	2	2	-	8

XXI	-	-	1	1	-	2
XXII	-	2	3	4	-	9
XXIII	-	2	-	1	-	3
XXIV	-	-	-	1	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Percentage (%)</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>45.45%</b>	<b>16.26%</b>	<b>32.53%</b>	<b>5.74%</b>	<b>100 %</b>

*Note:*

Dec : Declarative  
Rep : Representative  
Exp : Expressive  
Dir : Directive  
Com : Commisive

From 209 utterances, 95 utterances or 45.45% are classified as representative, 68 utterances or 32.53% as directive, 34 utterances or 16.26% as expressive and 12 utterances or 5.74% as commisive. The example of those expressions are explained below:

a. Representative

Mia Dolan: **I'm off in ten minutes.**

The utterance is representative act because Mia Dolan gave explanation to Sebastian. She gave information that she was off in ten minutes.

b. Directive

Mia Dolan: **Come this way.**

The utterance is directive act because Mia Dolan gave command to Sebastian to come to certain way because she gave route of the street.

c. Expressive

Mia Dolan : **Hi.**

The utterance is expressive act because Mia Dolan greeted Jury, before she went acting.

d. Commisive

Mia Dolan: **So I can't.**

The utterance is commisive act because Mia Dolan refused Tracy's invitation.

From the analysis above, there is no declarative speech act in Mia Dolan utterances in "La La Land" movie because she never used the kinds of act.

## 2. Function of Speech Acts

The second question in this study deals with the function of speech act used by Mia Dolan, the main character in the movie analyzed. The summary of the functions of speech acts is presented in table2:

Table 2. Analysis of Speech Acts Functions

Data	a.Rep.										b. Exp.							c. Dir.					d. Com.					Acts
	Stating	Affirmation	Predicting	Retelling	Calling	Answering	Concluding	Reporting	Informing	Complaining	Apologizing	Thanking	Expressing feeling	Expressing pleasure	Expressing pain	Compliment	Greeting	Question	Commanding	Warning	Suggestion	Requesting	Promising	Refusing	Offering	Threatening		
I	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	
II	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	8	
III	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	
IV	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	
V	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	10	
VI	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	12	
VII	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	8	
VIII	5	-	1	7	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	
IX	2	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	
X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	
XI	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	
XII	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
XIII	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	
XIV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
XV	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	14	
XVI	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	12	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	23	
XVII	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	8	
XVIII	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	15	
XIX	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
XX	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	
XXI	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	
XXII	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	
XXIII	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
XXIV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
T	25	1	1	10	4	13	2	2	32	5	4	5	8	5	1	1	10	48	5	5	6	4	2	6	2	2	209	

The following is the elaborate explanation in which data the functions are found.

a. Representative

The language functions that were mostly used based on the analysis are stating, affirming, predicting, retelling, calling, answering, concluding, reporting, complaining and informing. Mia Dolan used representative acts for data giving information in data 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9.

b. Expressive

Mia Dolan used expressive for apologizing, thanking, expressing feeling, expressing pleasure, expressing pain, complimenting, and greeting. Mia Dolan used expressing and apologizing in datum 7, expressing feeling in datum 1 and expressing pleasure in datum 8.

c. Directives

Mia Dolan used directives for example questioning, commanding, warning, suggestion, requesting. Mia Dolan used question in data 8, 9 and 11 and she gave suggestion in datum 15.

d. Commisive

The least used is commissive act. Mia Dolan used commissive act for promising, refusing, offering and threatening. Mia Dolan used refusing in datum 2 and used offering in datum 15.

## Conclusion

Based on the data analysis and discussion in previous chapter, the researcher drew the following conclusions:

1. There were types of speech acts in Mia Dolan utterances in “La La Land” movie. In her utterances, there are 99 data (45.45%) of representative act, 68 data (32.53%) of directive act, 34 data (16.26%) of expressive act, and 12 data (5.74%) of commissive act. Representative was the most frequently used type of speech act.
2. Based on the function of speech act analysis, Mia Dolan used representative act for giving information, stating, affirming, predicting, retelling, calling, answering, concluding, reporting, complaining and informing. Mia Dolan used directive act functioning as questioning, commanding, warning, suggesting and requesting. Mia Dolan used expressive act, functioning as apologizing, thanking, expressing feeling, expressing pleasure, expressing pain, complimenting and greeting. Mia Dolan used commissive act for promising, refusing, offering and threatening. The results then infer that analyzing literature work such as movie can be meaningful way of understanding human’s idea through their speeches.

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